

The Fulton County News.

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THE GRIM REAPER.

Short Sketches of the Lives of Persons Who Have Recently Passed Away.

JACOB L. FINIFF.

Jacob L. Finiff died at his home in Hagerstown, Tuesday, February 16, 1915, of tuberculosis after an illness of one year, aged 44 years and 27 days. He was a son of George Finiff, Sr., of Tod township and was born in this county, but had been a resident of Hagerstown for eighteen years. He was a sheet metal worker and had been employed by the Crawford Automobile Works for several years. He was a member of St. Paul's United Brethren church, the Knights of Pythias, and the Odd Fellows. Besides his wife he is survived by the following children: Catherine, Mary and Ernest; father and mother, and the following sisters and brothers: Mrs. John Helman, of McConnellsburg; Mrs. George Wagner, Newville; Mrs. Jay Sargent, Illinois; Nicholas, of Chambersburg, and George and Philip, of Tod township, this county.

Funeral at the house last Friday afternoon at 2:30 by Rev. A. B. Statton; interment in Rose Hill cemetery. The pallbearers were members from the Hagerstown Knights of Pythias and the Odd Fellows.

MRS. S. E. PLESSINGER.

Mrs. Sarah Ellen Plessinger, widow of the late Solomon Plessinger, died at her home in Hyndman, Bedford county, Pa., Saturday, February 20, 1915, aged 69 years, 4 months and 29 days. Her remains were laid to rest in Shaffers Graveyard, and the funeral services were conducted by her pastor, Rev. C. W. Stine, of Hooversville, Pa.

The deceased was a daughter of Jonathan and Katy Peck, and she was born in Ayr township, this county, February 22, 1845. On the 18th day of February, 1869, she was married to Solomon Plessinger, of Belfast township, by Rev. Samuel Logue. Several years ago, they moved to Hyndman, where a few years later the husband died. Mrs. Plessinger is survived by two children: Mrs. C. E. Sturgeon, of Hyndman and Emory W. Plessinger, at home; by four grandchildren, and by two brothers, namely, David L. Peck, Greenville, O., and Daniel F. Peck, Caldwell, Kansas.

JEREMIAH SPROWL.

Jeremiah Sprowl, or as he was more familiarly known to his large number of friends "Jerry" Sprowl, died at his home in Wells Valley, February 27, 1915, aged 75 years. The funeral took place on the following Sunday at Pine Grove, where the Rev. Weise preached from the text, "Lay not up for yourselves treasures on earth." After referring in appropriate words to the life of the deceased, Mr. Weise directed his discourse to the living. The church was full, and Mr. Weise's sermon will long be remembered by those present. Mr. Sprowl had been in ill health for many years, but when he was able to be around, was an active member of Pine Grove M. E. church. He leaves, as near relatives, his wife, son, and daughter; three brothers, County Commissioner William L. Sprowl, and Charley, of Wells Valley, and Frank, of Everett; also, four sisters, Mrs. Hetty Gracey, of Gracey; Mrs. Amelia Hoover, Altoona; Mrs. Emma Horton, Pittsburgh, and Mrs. Susan Mitchell, Altoona.

PECK.

Mary Ellen, adopted daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John H. Peck, was born December 20, 1914, and died February 7, 1915, aged 1 month and 18 days. Interment was at Mt. Zion cemetery.

Three hundred pheasants were shipped into Maryland last week by Chief Game Warden George Jessops. The birds were shipped by a New York game breeder.

Recent Weddings.

CHILCOTE-CAROTHERS.

As was noted very briefly last week, Frank C. Chilcote and Miss Minnie Carothers were married in McConnellsburg by Rev. J. V. Royer on the 18th of February. The groom is a son of Joseph and Laura Chilcote of Hustontown, and the bride, a daughter of Bruce and Effie Carothers, of Mill Creek, Huntingdon county. Since the death of her father, Minnie has made her home with her uncle and aunt Mr. and Mrs. George N. Sipes near Hustontown. Mr. and Mrs. Chilcote are industrious young people and expect to go to house-keeping near Hustontown about the first of April. They have the best wishes of their many friends for a long, happy and prosperous life.

BIVENS-MELLOTT.

Mr. Elmer Reid Bivens and Miss Edna Algie Mellott, both of Ayr township, were married in McConnellsburg, Thursday evening, February 25, 1915, by Rev. Robert E. Peterman, of the Lutheran church. The bride is a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. G. Johnson Mellott, and the groom a son of Mr. and Mrs. Leonard Bivens—all of Ayr township. The bride and groom are excellent young people and will go to house-keeping on the old Patterson mansion farm at Webster Mills now owned by the groom's father. The father, will move into the Dr. Sappington property recently purchased by him.

WINTER-SNIDER.

A quiet but very pretty wedding was solemnized at the bride's home on Thursday, March 4, 1915, when Miss Orpha Snider became the bride of Mr. Morgan Winter, of Union township. The ceremony that united these young people in wedlock was performed by Elders Smoot and Funk of the Primitive Baptist church. Mr. and Mrs. Winter will go to house-keeping soon on the Hays Margaret farm which they recently purchased, two miles north of Needmore.

SOWERS-FITTRY.

Albert Sowers and Miss Ozie Fittry—both of Ayr township—were married by Rev. J. V. Royer in McConnellsburg on Tuesday. The bride is a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. George Fittry.

GARLAND-PLESSINGER.

Mr. Daniel C. Garland and Mrs. Ollie Layton Plessinger, both of Belfast township, were married in McConnellsburg on Thursday last week by Justice-of-the-Peace John P. Conrad.

Fire Near Salvia.

On last Friday afternoon a fire that wiped out the principal building on the Ned A. Mellott place, situated along the mountain road one mile south of the Austin place at Salvia, originated from sparks that fell from the chimney to the roof of the dwelling house. Fanned by a strong wind, the flames soon spread to the barn and out-buildings. Both of our reporters say that owing to the rapidity with which the fire burned, very little of the contents of any of the building were saved. Mr. Mellott carried some insurance in the Friends Cove Company, but not enough to cover all loss.

Our Honor Roll.

Elsewhere in this issue will be found a list of new subscribers, and others who have renewed their subscription during the month of February. The principal object in doing this is to give the subscriber an opportunity to compare the date given here with his receipt. If there is anything wrong, he can drop us a postal, and we shall be only too glad to make it right. Then, this list serves as a kind of reminder. It sometimes causes persons to look at the label on their own paper, and to say, "My name will be on the March list which will be published the first week in April."

DIRECTORS CONVENTION.

The Annual Convention of School Directors Was Held on Wednesday and Thursday of Last Week.

The annual convention of the school directors of this county was held in the Court House at McConnellsburg on Wednesday afternoon and evening, and on Thursday of last week. While directors are paid for the time spent in attending these conventions, there were several who did not answer at roll call.

The convention was organized by electing A. R. Edwards, of Taylor township, president, and T. Scott Hershey, of Dublin, secretary. The first question taken up for discussion was: To what extent should the Compulsory School Law be enforced? This question was opened by M. A. Barkman. Mr. Barkman complained that the Vaccination Law and the Compulsory School Law conflict. B. F. Cline said that Todd township expects to be more rigid in enforcing the Compulsory School Law in the future. D. A. Nelson said that Ayr township is enforcing the Compulsory School Law. Levi Keefer explained how Ayr township was compelled to bring suit against four of its citizens for failure to send their children to school. T. Scott Hershey thinks that many of the patrons do not understand the Compulsory School Law, or there would be less trouble about its enforcement.

Dr. Ezra Lehman, principal of the C. V. S. N. S. was then introduced and gave a very suggestive address. His subject was: "What ought a teacher to be paid?" Dr. Lehman showed the Convention the great advantage in having good teachers, and explained that the efficient teacher should have a larger salary than the teacher who does inferior work.

WEDNESDAY EVENING.

Lecture by Dr. Lehman. His subject: "The Public School as a Community Center." Owing to adverse circumstance, the audience was not large, but the lecture was none the less interesting.

Dr. Lehman told of the great advantages of agricultural interests as well as educational advantages that may be derived from meetings in the country school house. He thinks that the school house stands idle too much of the time.

THURSDAY MORNING.

The committee on nominations reported the following named directors to serve during the ensuing year, and the nominations were accepted by the convention by a unanimous election, namely, President, Levi Keefer; Vice Presidents, C. B. Stevens and Dr. J. W. Mosser; Secretary, T. Scott Hershey; Treasurer, Clark McGovern.

Next in order was a discussion: "What is the Best Method to Use in the Selection of Text-books?" Opened by Dr. A. D. Dalbey, followed by B. F. Cline, T. S. Hershey, J. E. Thomas and others. All agreed that books should be carefully examined before making any adoptions, and that care should be taken not to put too much stress on the judgment of a teacher who may have the interest of a book agent above the interests of the school children.

This was followed with an address by Dr. Lehman—subject: "The Selection of a Good Teacher." This was a most interesting and helpful talk to the directors. The Dr. made this talk so plain that no director who heard it can possibly go away from the convention without being profited.

The convention tendered a vote of thanks to Dr. Lehman for his untiring efforts in behalf of the directors, and forthwith adjourned.

T. SCOTT HERSEY, Secretary.

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Railroad Meeting.

That the people of McConnellsburg and vicinity are interested in the progress being made towards getting a railroad, was evidenced last Friday night by the crowded condition of the Court House—every seat being filled and more than a score having to stand.

The meeting was addressed by Hon. John P. Sipes, Hon. D. H. Patterson, George A. Harris, E. J. Post, and L. T. Peck. The last named gentleman represented the Westinghouse Electric Company, and it is no reflection to say that it was the prospect of hearing him explain modern, mountain-climbing machinery that induced the 300 men and women to brave the fierce wind that night to hear what he had to say.

For many years, it had been the belief that Cove mountain could not be negotiated by locomotives. That was before we heard of the electric locomotive. Mr. Peck's description of how these little giants do not have to depend upon low grades, and his citations of railroads that are using them, completely convinced the audience that the proposition to haul Cumberland Valley freight cars across Cove mountain depends upon nothing more than that the people of this county shall give their hearty encouragement to those who are promoting the enterprise. Mr. Peck is not a "promoter;" his mission at that meeting was to confirm what we have been hearing about electric railroads—not simply the kind we see on the streets of our cities, but the kind that differ in no way from steam roads except that a different type of locomotive is used. Who has not ridden up hill and down hill on common trolley cars? To haul freight trains over the same tracks requires but a slight difference in the application of power. Long before we began to plan for this road, the Westinghouse people had hill-climbing methods reduced to a science, and all Mr. Peck had to do was to state how his company figured out the size and power of the motor we would need after his company has been given the factors of the problem. A stationary power house will furnish power to lift freight over steep grades at a lower cost than by the use of steam locomotives. This explains why steam roads are electrifying hilly sections of their systems.

Meetings of similar character were held at Webster Mills and at Burnt Cabins last week.

Hard Cider.

A Licking Creek township writer who, evidently, has suffered at the hands of parties who drink, and furnish, hard cider, gives warning that the sale or gift of the stuff is illegal, and that in case "A word to the wise" should prove insufficient to stop it, other measures to rid the community of a nuisance may be expected. A letter from that section to this office reads as follows:

"I think that the people who furnish intoxicating drinks to those who have not the will power to refuse it are on a low plane of civilization. There are people who would try to lead a better life if the tempters—workers of his satanic majesty—were not ever ready and willing to drive them from the sober path. This refers to those who store cider in their cellars, and when it is "good" sell it for a few miserable dollars. They had better take warning in time, for trouble is brewing which may cost them more than the amount received for their rotten stuff."

"AULD ACQUAINTANCE."

Bits of News and Gossip Extracted from the Letters from Our Distant Subscribers.

In remitting the wherewithal to insure a continuation of the weekly visits of the NEWS, Mrs. Oscar S. Johnston, whose husband is president of the Salt City Business College in Hutchinson, Kans., says: "This has been an exceedingly prosperous year for the college. We have all of western Kansas as a territory to draw from, and these people are anxious that their children shall have an education that is practical, and, at the same time, have a place to spend some of the wheat money of the past year. There are over 400 students enrolled and as they are coming and going all the time, it means something to take care of them."

L. C. Bailey, Saxton, Pa.:—I notice by the label on my paper that I'd better "pay up" or maybe you may "shut up;" or, rather, "shut off" the allotment of the FULTON COUNTY NEWS that comes to my address every week. Hence, you will find enclosed the "spondulix" to insure its continued visits until next November. Business is quiet here, and the good times predicted by a change of administration has not hit Saxton to any perceptible degree yet. The cost of living is away up so high that it is about out of sight.

M. C. Greenland, Bedford, Pa.:—"In looking over the January list of paid-up subscribers, I noticed that my name was not "written there," and I herewith enclose a check for renewal. Work on the new postoffice building that Uncle Sam is erecting for us is being pushed along as fast as could be expected at this season of the year. When completed it will be a structure that will be a credit to our town. The Hotel Waverly has been torn down, and in its place will be erected a building with marble front and sides to be occupied by the First National Bank of Bedford, and the Bedford County Trust Company. Men, who in former years were accustomed to spend their money over the bar at this place, for that which is not bread, may shortly have the opportunity of taking their money there and leaving it in safe hands where it will be drawing interest, and accumulating a reserve fund for a "rainy day."

I read in the NEWS some time ago, a communication headed, "Why the Deer Sheds Its Horns." The reason given was, that it indicates the time when the season of selective attachment should close. Well, the writer of that article may be right; but I think there are many oldtime hunters besides myself, who know a little about the habits and disposition of those horny fellows, that will not agree with him. While we fail to see or understand in what way the male is benefited by the shedding of his horns, I think we can readily understand that the females and their helpless young are greatly benefited by being undisturbed and alone at this critical time in life—which I think would not be the case, were it not that an allwise Creator has provided for their protection at a time they are unable to protect themselves. Consequently, the rather rough disposed male is humbled by the shedding of his horns, and is compelled, year after year, to care for a tender, sore head at the very time the female is caring for her young.

M. C. GREENLAND.

Our old friend L. L. Cunningham, who now lives in Akron, O., sends us a dollar, and along with the dollar comes the following "spiel": "I notice that the label on my paper indicates the necessity of my contributing something to assist in getting a

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Fulton County Soils.

As a clincher for the series of articles we have been writing under this heading, and to sum up our pleadings for soil improvement by the use of humus, we will quote extracts from Alva Agee's writings, the reliability of which no one has any doubt. Under "Office of Organic Matter," he says: "The restoration of an impoverished soil to a productive state is a simple matter so far as method is concerned. It may be a difficult problem for the individual owner on account of expense or time involved, but he has only a few factors in his problem. Assuming that there is good drainage, and that the lime requirement has been met, the most important consideration is organic matter. A profitable agriculture is dependent upon a high per cent. of humus in the soil. Average yields of crops are low in this country chiefly because the humus-content has been greatly reduced by bad farming methods.

"Nature uses organic matter in the following ways:

1. To give good physical condition to the soil. The practical farmer appreciates this quality in a soil. (Here follows a long explanation of how humus mellows soil.)

2. To make the soil retentive of moisture. Yields of crops are limited more by the lack of a constant and adequate supply of moisture throughout the growing season than by any one other factor. Decayed organic matter has great capacity for holding moisture, and in some measure should supply the water needed during periods of light rainfall.

3. To serve, directly and indirectly, as a solvent of the inert plant-food in the soil that is known as "the natural strength" of the land.

4. To furnish plant-food directly to growing plants."

Of course, we did not quote all he says concerning the uses Nature makes of organic matter, but the foregoing is sufficient to convince thoughtful readers that it will greatly reward owners of run-down soils if they will arrange, in some way, to set aside one field at a time, grow legumes and plough down heavy growths at least twice before taking a pound of it off, in order that future crops may be doubled.

The Lenten Services.

The Lenten services in the Reformed and in the Presbyterian church conducted by Rev. Yearick have been well attended and are full of interest. On account of the inclemency of the weather Dr. Rose was not here to preach in the Reformed church last Wednesday evening as had been announced, and the sermon was preached by Rev. Yearick. Dr. Rose will be here later. For the ensuing week, services will be held as follows: Friday evening, illustrated lecture for the young folks in the Reformed church; Sunday morning, sermon in the Reformed church, by Rev. Yearick; Sunday evening, sermon in the Presbyterian church by the same; sermon in Presbyterian church next Wednesday evening by Rev. F. W. Bald, pastor of the Reformed church, Mercersburg.

Mail Order Fakirs.

Even though an enormous sum of money is still being taken from the public by mail order fakirs, the practice is yearly becoming more dangerous to the operators, according to statistics prepared by the postoffice department.

In 1914 a total of \$68,000,000 was secured by such swindlers, as were actually arrested, while in 1913 the public was mulched to the extent of \$54,000,000. Last year 702 arrests were made, resulting in 370 convictions. In 1913 only 510 arrests were recorded and 304 convictions secured by postal investigators.

DANGERS OF SPRING.

Little Talks on Health and Hygiene by Samuel G. Dixon, M. D., LL. D., Commissioner of Health.

When nature arouses from her winter lethargy and the first faint promises of spring soften the wind, man in common with all animal life harkens to the foretelling.

The desire for change and relief from the winter routine is strong in us all and while this is the time when caution should be exercised our impulses seem to lead us to cast it aside. The high death rate of pneumonia and tuberculosis which is the inevitable accompaniment of the early spring months is an irrefutable evidence that this change from winter habits requires the exercise of caution to prevent evil results.

The city dweller in particular is apt to over-eat and under-exercise during the winter season. As a result when spring approaches his physical strength is below par, he becomes easily fatigued and, therefore, susceptible to the attack of disease germs.

Old people who suffer from the cold during the winter, and who do not appreciate that ventilation needs not mean exposure, are apt to suffer from the sudden changes of temperature at this season of the year. It is particularly due to these winter habits of poor ventilation and insufficient exercise that when spring arrives we feel debilitated.

The sensible liver who sleeps the year round in the fresh air, eats in moderation, and exercises rationally, is far less subject to spring fever and spring ailments than the more self-indulgent individual.

During March when fluctuations of the temperature are frequent, care should be taken to maintain an even bodily temperature by proper protection in the way of clothing. Better some slight discomfort at noon than to be chilled on the way home from work at night. Moderation in diet is also advisable. This with a reasonable amount of exercise and well ventilated sleeping room will aid in resisting the dangers accompanying the approach of spring.

Common Sense.

Longfellow could take a worthless piece of paper and write a poem on it and make it worth \$65,000—that's genius. There are some men who could write a few words on a piece of paper and make it worth \$8,000,000—that's capital. The United States can take an ounce and a quarter of gold and make it worth \$20—that's money. A mechanic can take material worth \$5 and make it into watch springs worth \$1,000—that's skill. There is a man in Chicago who can take a fifty cent piece of canvas, paint a picture on it, and make it worth \$1,000—that's art. A Greek can take an article worth 75c and sell it for \$1—that's business. A woman could purchase a hat for 75c but prefers one worth \$27—that's foolishness. A ditch digger handles several tons of earth for \$1.50 a day—that's labor. The author of this can write a check for \$9,000,000, but it wouldn't be worth a dime—that's rough. There are people who will tell you that other papers are as good as this—that's nerve. Take \$1.00 and get a years subscription to the FULTON COUNTY NEWS—that's common sense.

Wife Has Her Way.

The other day a gentleman called one of our doctors and said he was not able to work, and demanded a prescription telling his wife that he must not work, so the doctor wrote a prescription something like this: "He must not work only to pump and carry in water, run the washing machine and dig potatoes." The fact is, that was all his wife wanted him to do.